

1: Holmberg--28 [5]

(1941-42) 1950

Siriono

116, 222, 263

"Like other tropical forest Indians the Siriono are fond of extracting the honey (hidou) of wild bees, which is the only 'sweet' they possess. It is relished not only as food but for the making of mead as well. Honey is avidly sought, especially during the dry season when it is most abundant. In searching for honey, the Siriono do not go so far as to follow bees to the hive, but men out hunting, or collecting with the women, are most skillful in spotting wild beehives, which are usually located in hollow trees that are still standing. If the honey is not extracted when sighted, the person finding it returns later to do so."

1: Holmberg--35 [4]

(1941-42) 1950

Siriono

116, 252, 263, 136

"No condiments of any kind are used in cooking. Even salt (no deposits of this product are found in the area) is unknown to the Siriono living under aboriginal conditions. Evidently the foods they eat contain enough salt to produce the hydrochloric acid necessary for digestion."

1: Holmberg--35 [5]
116, 177, 263

(1941-42) 1950

Siriono

"I introduced salt to some Indians for the first time, and they expressed a distaste for eating it. By using small quantities in cooking, however, they soon developed a craving for it. In some instances this craving (once the Indians have become accustomed to using salt) has become so great as to become an important factor in establishing and maintaining friendly relations with the whites. The late Frederick Park Richards, an American cattle rancher living near El Carmen, who was one of the first white men to establish permanent relations with the Siriono in the Rio Blanco area, told me that when he first came to the region in 1912 he was able to maintain peaceful relations with the Indians for years before they permanently settled down with him on his farms in 1925 by conditioning them to eating salt. I myself, however, have traveled with primitive groups when all of us went without salt for as long as 43 days without suffering any apparent ill effects from such a diet."